

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /072 W

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R 051408Z MAR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8243

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMCONSUL CAPETOWN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO

AMBASSY MONROVIA 2748

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 2092

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAU, NI

SUBJECT: OAU CM --SOUTHERN AFRICA

REF: ADDIS ABABA 2251 (NOTAL)

1. SENIOR MEMBER FMG DELEGATION TO OAU CM OFFERED
RUNDOWN ON SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUED MARCH 4 GENERALLY
PARALLELING THAT REPORTED REFTEL. HE DIFFERED, HOWEVER,
IN HIS INTERPRETATION OF OAU REACTION TO TANZANIAN-
ZAMBIAN INITIATIVES, WHICH HE FELT HAD BEEN WELCOMED
BY MOST DELEGATIONS THOUGH FEW WERE IN POSITION EVALUATE
THEM EFFECTIVELY. IN HIS VIEW, IT WAS LACK OF PREPARATION
TO DISCUSS SUBJECT MEANINGFULLY RATHER THAN UNHAPPINESS WITH
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STEPS TAKEN WHICH LED TO DECISION CONVENE EXTRAORDINARY CM

FOR APRIL.

2. ACCORDING SOURCE, THERE IS IN FACT NO AGENDA FOR MEETING SCHEDULED TO BE HELD NEXT MONTH. AGREED SUBJECT IS SIMPLY "SOUTH AFRICA". THOUGH HE EXPECTS DISCUSSION WILL RANGE OVER ENTIRE COMPLEX OF SOUTHERN AFRICAN ISSUES. ON SOUTH AFRICA ITSELF, OAU MEMBER STATES WILL FACE QUESTION OF HOW TO INTERPRET VORSTER'S INTENTIONS BOTH INTERNALLY AND WITH REGARD TO NAMIBIA AND ZIMBABWE, AND IN LIGHT OF THIS WILL HAVE TO DECIDE WHAT POSTURE OAU MEMBER STATES SHOULD ADOPT ON RELATIONS WITH SAG.

3. ON SPECIFIC ISSUE OF NAMIBIA, SOURCE SAID FMG ATTEMPTING CARRY OUT OWN INVESTIGATION OF SITUATION AS PART OF PREPARATIONS FOR APRIL C. BASIC NIGERIAN POSITION FAVORS INDEPENDENCE FOR TERRITORY AS SINGLE POLITICAL UNIT. THOUGH FMG RECOGNIZES THERE MAY IN FACT BE SOME TRUTH TO CLAIMS THAT NON-OVAMBO POPULATION WOULD PREFER SEE OVAMBOS IN SEPARATE STATE, FACT SUCH ASSERTIONS COME LARGELY FROM SAG MAKES THEM AUTOMATICALLY SUSPECT. NIGERIA FEELS ONLY REAL WAY TO TEST THESE ASSERTIONS IS TO PERMIT FREE POLITICAL ACTIVITY IN TERRITORY, BUT FMG WILL MEANWHILE TRY TO ASSESS SITUATION THROUGH OTHER CHANNELS.

4. WITH REGARD TO "DIALOGUE", SOUCE SAID OAU CM WAS MORE SURPRISED THAN ANYTHING ELSE AT REPORT OF TOLBERT/VORSTER MEETING. LIBERIAN MESSAGE TO CM WAS TECHNICALLY COMMUNICATION INTENDED FOR TRANSMITTAL TO HEADS OF STATE, AND SOURCE CITED THIS AS REASON WHY MINISTERS FELT THAT DEBATE ON THIS ISSUE WAS BEYOND THEIR IMMEDIATE COMPETENCE.

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